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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,893	12/16/2003	Shuji Nagano	1472-0310P	3545
2292	7590	03/14/2006	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			ESHETE, ZELALEM	
PO BOX 747			ART UNIT	
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			PAPER NUMBER	

3748

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/735,893	NAGANO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zelalem Eshete	3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/16/03;12/21/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanshin (JP2001336407) in view of Voll et al. (4,713,704).

Regarding claim 1: Sanshin discloses a valve system for an internal combustion engine (see figure 2), comprising: an intake-side rocker shaft (see numeral 33); an exhaust-side rocker shaft (see numeral 34); intake-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to intake valves and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said intake-side rocker arms rock (see numerals 31a,31b,31c), the intake-side rocker arms being driven by an intake cam (see numerals 30a,30b,30c); and exhaust-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to exhaust valves and supported on said exhaust-side rocker shaft such that said exhaust-side rocker arms rock (see figures 4,5), the exhaust-side rocker arms being driven by an exhaust cam (see numeral 30d).

Sanshin fails to disclose wherein one of said rocker shafts which requires to have a higher stiffness has a larger diameter.

However, Voll teaches shaft which requires to have a higher stiffness has a larger diameter (see column 4, lines 29 to 34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanshin's device by providing larger diameter to meet higher stiffness as taught by Sanshin in order to increase the physical property of the shaft through the physical dimension of the shaft as is well known in the art of strength of materials.

Regarding claim 2: Sanshin discloses the claimed invention as recited above and further discloses said intake-side rocker arms includes, a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to the intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31a), the first rocker arm being driven by a first low-lift cam (see numeral 30a), a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said second rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31b), the second rocker arm being driven by a high-lift cam causing a larger valve lift than the first low-lift cam (see numeral 30b), and a connection switching mechanism that selectively connects or disconnects said second rocker arm to or from said first rocker arm (see abstract).

Sanshin fails to disclose said intake-side rocker shaft has a larger diameter than a diameter said exhaust-side rocker shaft.

However, Voll teaches shaft which requires to have a higher stiffness has a larger diameter (see column 4, lines 29 to 34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanshin's device by providing larger diameter to meet higher stiffness as taught by Sanshin since additional weight on the intake rocker shaft requires additional stiffness requirement as is well known in the art of strength of materials.

Regarding claim 3: Sanshin discloses the claimed invention as recited above; and further discloses said intake valves includes a first intake valve and a second intake valve (see figure 4; numeral 25), and said intake-side rocker arms includes a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to said first intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31c), the first rocker arm being driven by a first low-lift cam (see numeral 30c), a third rocker arm having an end thereof connected said second intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said third rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31a), the third rocker arm being driven by a second low-lift cam that causes a smaller valve than the first low-lift cam (see numeral 30a), a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said second rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31b), the second rocker arm being driven by a high lift cam that causes a larger valve lift than the first low lift cam (see numeral 30b), and a connection switching mechanism that selectively connects or disconnects said second rocker arm to or from said first rocker arm and said third rocker arm (see abstract).

Sanshin fails to disclose said intake-side rocker shaft has a larger diameter than a diameter said exhaust-side rocker shaft.

However, Voll teaches shaft which requires to have a higher stiffness has a larger diameter (see column 4, lines 29 to 34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanshin's device by providing larger diameter to meet higher stiffness as taught by Sanshin since additional weight on the intake rocker shaft requires additional stiffness requirement as is well known in the art of strength of materials.

Regarding claim 4: Sanshin discloses said intake side rocker arms includes center pivot type rocker arms with middle parts thereof pivoted by said intake said rocker shaft (see figure 5).

Regarding claim 5: Sanshin discloses said intake side rocker arms and said exhaust side rocker arms are driven by a single cam shaft disposed between said intake side rocker shaft and said exhaust side rocker shaft (see figures 4,5).

Conclusion

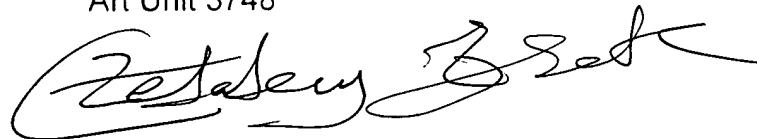
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zelalem Eshete whose telephone number is (571) 272-4860. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Denion can be reached on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Zelalem Eshete
Examiner
Art Unit 3748




THOMAS DENION
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700